



NEW JERSEY
HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

www.njhrc.org

TO: Council & Advisory Board Members
FROM: Jim Peeler, Chairman
SUBJECT: 1st Meeting
DATE: September 28, 2011

Welcome. It is a pleasure to be back after our summer hiatus. This year is going to be an exciting and challenging year for the NJ HRC. The challenge before us this year will be to meet and succeed in living up to this year's theme: *Re-Entry, Resource = Results*. The excitement comes from working together to reach a common goal.

The NJ HRC and Advisory Board have the unique opportunity to bring people together and combine the multi-talented people who are truly concerned with discrimination and the issues that are brought on because of incarceration and re-entry. We are fortunate to have county and municipal human relations commissions who also promote the work of the NJHRC and the Advisory Board. We hope that they will take this opportunity to use this year's theme as part of their programs.

This year we are very lucky to have the Office of Community Justice providing us with their expertise and assistance. Director Wanda Moore and DAG Joe Fanaroff have already been of great assistance and guidance to us and we are looking forward to continuing to work with them.

I am most pleased to have a person working with our Council who has jumped in to help revitalize our efforts to make the NJ HRC a viable advocate for the elimination of bias and to further diversity. Holly Lees has emerged herself as the "go to person" for our Council and Advisory Board. Please introduce yourself and welcome Holly.

Hester Agudosi will continue to be our liaison from the Attorney General's Office and the Division of Criminal Justice. With her wealth of knowledge, commitment and dedication she will continue to be a driving force on the highway of progress.



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Agenda

Wednesday September 28, 2011
10:00 a.m.

- I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Reading of the "Open Public Meeting Act" Statement
- III. Introduction of Members and Guests
- IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes
- IV. Chairman's Report
- V. Presentation by U.S. Census Bureau, Whittona Burrell
- VI. Reports of the Standing Committees
 - A. Education Committee – Julius Ramsey
 - B. Public Relations – Corbett Klein
 - C. County Human Relations
- VII. Conference Report – Hester Agudosi
- VIII. Advisory Board – Dr. Joan Ravitz
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
- XI. Public Input
- XII. Announcements
- XIII. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING – 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE – NOVEMBER 16, 2011

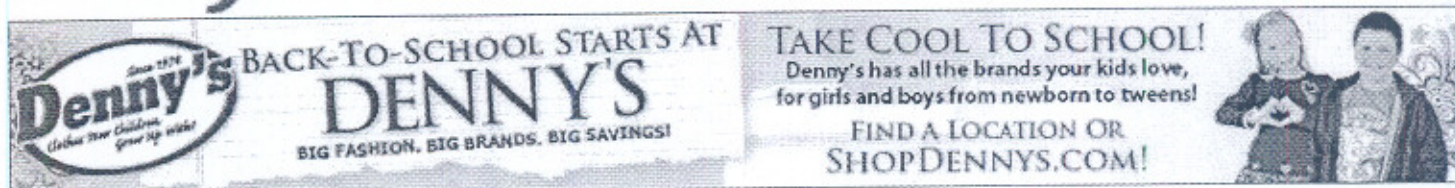


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TO: Council and Advisory Board Members
FROM: Jim Peeler, Chairman
DATE: September 28, 2011

Bob Stone, Advisory Board Member, is unable to make today's meeting. His wife has fallen ill and he is by her side. He did ask that we pass on this wonderful article.



Rutgers event stresses ties among Muslims, Jews

by [Debra Rubin](#)
NJN Bureau Chief/Middlesex

September 19, 2011

After a year often marked by tension at Rutgers University between Muslim and Jewish students, an interfaith group representing both sides kicked off the school year with a program highlighting their shared aims and pledges to work together.

Mohammed Hameeduddin, the Muslim mayor of Teaneck, and Adam Gussen, the town's Orthodox Jewish deputy mayor — both of whom are Rutgers alumni — spoke at a Sept. 12 program in New Brunswick sponsored by Rutgers Shalom/Salaam.

The student organization brings together students from both religions through social service projects and non-political programming.

The two Teaneck political leaders spoke of their own relationship, which began in middle school with a shared love of sports and continues in their government roles in their ethnically and religiously diverse Bergen County municipality.

The previous week, *The Daily Targum*, the university's campus newspaper, published a letter cowritten by Muslim Student Association president Ibaad Sadiq and Rutgers Hillel president Zeke Pariser, an Orthodox Jew from Teaneck. The two student leaders pledged to work together to create an atmosphere of understanding and tolerance on campus.

"We are committed to fostering a culture of not only respect between students of different faiths, but one also conducive to the development of symbiotic relationships that produce learning, new perspectives, and friendships," they wrote.

They reiterated that message during the Sept. 12 program, which Hillel and MSA cosponsored with the Association of Indians at Rutgers and the Pakistani Student Association.



[+ enlarge image](#)

Teaneck's mayor, Mohammed Hameeduddin, right, and deputy mayor, Adam Gussen, spoke of bridging differences between Muslims and Jews during an appearance at Rutgers University. Photos by Debra Rubin

[+ more images](#)



'Moving forward'

Hameeduddin's appointment as mayor of Teaneck, which has sizable African-American and Orthodox Jewish populations, earned national headlines in 2010. (*Voice of America* recently did a piece on Hameeduddin and Teaneck's diversity that aired in the Middle East on Sept. 11.)

Hameeduddin originally sought a position on the municipal planning board at Gussen's urging, and said he first ran for council on a three-person ticket with a Christian and another Orthodox Jew.

"Adam and I met in the sixth grade," said Hameeduddin. "He got into a lot of trouble. I got into a lot of trouble so we got sent to the principal's office. That's where we actually met. We used to play basketball together."

Gussen said the idea of a Muslim and Orthodox Jew in the top leadership roles is not seen as quite the phenomenon in ethnically and religiously diverse Teaneck as it might be in other parts of the country. "Family and friends are important to both of us," he said. "All the meaningful things we have in common. The things we differ on are really the meaningless things."

Hameeduddin said his parents emigrated from India.

"I think the Muslim community is where the Jewish community was 40 years ago," Hameeduddin, said. "I think the Muslim community can learn a lot from the Jewish community."

Both communities have intermingled in Teaneck through social service projects and gotten to know the other's political leaders through visits to mosques and synagogues.

"I'm as American as apple pie," said Hameeduddin. "I've lived here my whole life. I would not want to be Muslim in any other country."

The event drew interested students from other ethnicities, prompting Rutgers University Student Assembly president Matthew Cordeiro to tell the crowd of more than 50 that he saw the evening as "moving forward."

"Sometimes people don't have to agree," he said, "but we all should be able to talk about our cultures and be able to live together."

Will Eastman of Marlboro, a founder and current president of Shalom/Salaam, said "the time is now" to go out and forge relationships with others.

"This is the time to recognize this while we are in the most diverse university in the most diverse state in the most diverse country in the world," said Eastman, who is also an active member of Hillel. "Now is the time to make those lasting friendships."

You might also like:

- [New educator aims for 'engagement' at Hillel](#) *From NJJN*
- [Conservative pro-Israel group targets Rep. Holt](#) *From NJJN*
- ['CSI' to feature NJ activist's Sept. 11 memorial efforts](#) *From NJJN*
- [Teachers schooled on needs of interfaith families](#) *From NJJN*

Selected for you by our sponsor:

- [These 4 Things Happen Right Before A Heart Attack](#) *From Newsmax.com*
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September 22, 2011

To: New Jersey Human Relations Council Members
New Jersey Human Relations Advisory Board Members

Re: 16th Annual Human Relations Council Conference
Resources + Re-entry = Results

Dear Colleagues:

I would like to extend an invitation to attend the Human Relations Council's 16th Annual Conference on **November 16, 2011**. The HRC Annual Conference brings together members of county and municipal human relations commissions throughout New Jersey to share ideas and learn about topical issues that relate to their work in helping to promote diversity throughout New Jersey's communities.

The theme of this year's Conference is "**Resources + Re-entry = Results.**" It is important that community leaders better understand the challenges of successfully re-integrating ex-offenders back in to the community. There will be two panel discussions with leaders in the field who work directly with ex-offenders in the community. The conference will also include an Awards Program highlighting the accomplishment of individuals who have done outstanding work in the area of re-entry. **Attorney General Paula Dow** will keynote this segment of the program.

Registration for the conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. The program agenda and information for the day will be provided when you arrive.

I have enclosed a registration form for the conference, which is completely free of charge. If you plan to attend, please return the form by **November 2, 2011** via fax at (609) 341-2077. Registration is limited to 125 persons so please register early. Also, please direct any questions you might have to Holly Lees at (609) 984-0008.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

SAVE THE DATE

November 16, 2011

Resources
+
Re-entry
=
Results

The New Jersey
Human Relations Council
Annual Conference

Hughes Justice Complex



For more information visit
www.njhrc.org



NEW JERSEY
HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
www.njhrc.org

16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

RESOURCES + RE-ENTRY = RESULTS

November 16, 2011 @ 9:00 am

Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
4th Floor, West Wing, Conference Room A
25 West Market Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

☐ Yes - I will attend

☐ No - I will not attend

Name _____

Title (or Greeting) _____

Organization Name _____

☐ Council Member

☐ Advisory Board Member

☐ Special Guest

Please RSVP by November 2, 2011

Holly Lees

Phone: (609) 292-9021

Fax: (609) 341-2077

Email: humanrelations@njdcj.org